



Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency
P.O. Box 4501
Jackson, MS 39296



Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289

October 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

FROM: Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
State NFIP Coordinator / FPM Bureau Director

RE: **Choctaw County ‘Flood Risk Open House’**

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI, LLC) will conduct a final coordination meeting with officials from Choctaw County and the communities of Ackerman, French Camp, and Weir on October 23, 2006 at 4:00 PM.

On September 29, 2006, we mailed you a copy of the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and a copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), which identified the flood risk in Choctaw County and the incorporated areas. An important and necessary component of this process is to offer an opportunity for you, your local officials, and your citizens to preview the FIS and FIRM. This allows feedback and concerns regarding flood risk management and mitigation. Working with the Choctaw County Chancery Clerk, we have scheduled the following two meetings, the first to be attended by local officials, and the second being open to all audiences and the general public.

Choctaw Co. Local Official’s Meeting

When: Monday, October 23, 2006
Time: 4:00 PM
Where: County Courtroom
022 Quinn Street
Ackerman, MS 39735

Choctaw Co. Flood Risk Open House

When: Monday, October 23, 2006
When: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Where: County Courtroom
022 Quinn Street
Ackerman, MS 39735

Our staff will be able to address FIRM, NFIP, or any other questions regarding flood protection and mitigation. We also encourage your floodplain, building and zoning, and engineering staff to attend as an opportunity to provide information on your local flood development permit requirements and ordinance, and other requirements within your community. In addition, we have extended an invitation to local insurance agents from your community who may wish to use this venue to provide insurance information and outreach to your community related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

This “Open House” will be of particular interest to those living in or near Special Flood Hazard Areas, as well as realtors, insurance agents, developers, representatives of lending institutions, and members of the local media. We request that you publicize this event utilizing whatever means you deem necessary to reach this target audience, such as your local newspaper, local libraries, post offices, community websites, local television stations, or any other relevant organizations.

As a reminder, participation in the NFIP will require that your community adopt the new FIRM into a local flood damage prevention ordinance by the date when the FIRM goes into effect. We strongly encourage your community’s participation in these two meetings, for they will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to thoroughly review the preliminary FIS and FIRM and bring to the table any questions or concerns prior to your formal adoption process.

Thank you for your time and participation in this process, and we look forward to our continued collaboration. If you have any questions prior to October 23rd, please contact me via e-mail at agoodman@mema.ms.gov.

Enclosure:

Sample Press Release

Choctaw County “Flood Risk Open House” Scheduled

General public provided opportunity to find out more about floodplain management in their community.

Representatives from the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI, LLC) will be conducting a Flood Risk Open House on Monday, October 23rd from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the County Courthouse in Ackerman. This Open House will provide the public with an opportunity to review a recently completed preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that include base flood information and identification of areas subject to flood hazards within the county.

The Open House will be staffed with representatives from various local, state, and federal agencies, to provide you the most current information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development requirements, and the process for floodplain mapping within Choctaw County communities. Once the preliminary FIRMs become effective, these maps will be used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, realtors, insurance agents, and the general public to determine flood risk.

Property owners, realtors, lenders, and insurance agents are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation within your community.